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October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This is a time for the community to mourn those who have died, celebrate those who have survived, and connect with those who work to end this pervasive problem. It is also a time for all of us to recognize our own roles in the movement to end domestic violence - not just the social workers, politicians and police, but plumbers, hairdressers, clergy and our neighbors. We can all contribute to this effort.

In Louisville one can get a sense of the prevalence of this crime if you look at the system that is in place to deal with the perpetrators, provide services to victims and advocate for change. Adult Protective Services, the Center for Women and Families, the Domestic Violence Intake Center, Louisville Metro Police, the Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinating Council and its subcommittees that look at fatalities and children who

October Observance: Domestic Violence Awareness Month

News Flash: This is unacceptable!

IPV : 2nd largest cause of homelessness among women

What is IPV?

IPV refers to the physical, sexual, psychological and economic abuse that takes place in the context of an intimate relationship and is one of the most common forms of gender-based violence, characterized by long-term patterns of abusive behavior and control. These behaviors and methods of control – isolation, barriers to economic security, fear, intimidation, coercion, and humiliation – create an atmosphere of helplessness for those who find themselves in an abusive relationship and stay out of fear for their physical safety and/or economic dependency – nearly 50%. Victims of IPV are often cut-off from support networks and economic resources by their abusers. As a result, they may lack steady income and poor employment, credit, and rental histories.

What are the facts about IPV and homelessness?

In a national survey conducted by the Interagency Council on the Homeless, IPV was the second most stated cause of homelessness for families. One in eight homeless women reported they had left their home because of abuse or violence. Another study showed that one in four homeless women is homeless because of her experience with violence.

This information is substantiated closer to home. A Point-in-Time survey of Louisville homeless shelters conducted by the Coalition for the Homeless in January 2007 found that 28% of those surveyed indicated “family arguments or domestic violence” as the reason for becoming homeless. This represents more than an 11% increase over the previous year’s data. Furthermore, information gleaned from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database indicated that more than one third of clients with children reported being victims of domestic violence.

What needs to change?

Currently, victims of IPV do not fit the definition of chronically homeless and therefore, cannot be served through many of the federally funded housing programs. A lack of affordable housing, both nationally and locally, can significantly reduce alternatives for women experiencing IPV, locking them in abusive situations or forcing them and their children into homelessness if they leave. It shouldn’t be a choice between staying with their abuser and sleeping on the streets.

Read the full article:

<http://www.louisvilleky.gov/OFW/DV-HealthIssue.htm>

witness, Circuit Family Court, the Commonwealth’s Attorney and County Attorney, ElderServe, MensWork, the Mary Byron Foundation, and many others. One other way to understand the seriousness of this crime in our own community is to know that more than 5,000 Emergency Protective Orders are granted each year. Research tells us that one in three women will experience abuse in her lifetime. This statistic becomes even more powerful when you consider that there is a high probability that your grandmother, mother, aunt, sister, daughter or neighbor is, has been or will be a victim. I challenge you to take a stand today and join the movement - this is unacceptable and something needs to be done now.



The Unacceptable Truth

- **1 in 3** women are abused by an intimate partner. The rate of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Kentucky significantly exceeds the national rate.

<http://www.kiprc.uky.edu/projects/ipv>

- **YOU are important** in the fight to break the silence: *64% of women claim they would choose to confide in a friend rather than family or police if suffering from intimate partner violence.*

<http://www.endabuse.org/resources/facts/>

- **25% of 8th and 9th graders** studied revealed they had been victims of dating violence.

<http://www.ncadv.org/files/datingviolence.pdf>

- **45% of corporate leaders** say someone close to them has been involved in violence against women.

<http://www.caepv.org/getinfo/>

- Pregnant and recently **pregnant women are more likely to be victims** of homicide than to die of any other cause.

<http://www.endabuse.org/resources/facts/>

1 in 3: This Is Unacceptable!



You enter the room quietly as the meeting begins. A dozen women are present and three men. You know most of them. There are smiles and nods as you take a seat. Domestic violence is on the agenda. The group reviews the definition of abuse and battering:

Abuse is a pattern of coercive control that one person exercises over another. Battering is a behavior that physically harms, arouses fear, prevents a partner from doing what they wish or forces them to behave in ways they do not want.

Battering includes the use of physical and sexual violence, threats and intimidation, emotional abuse and economic deprivation.

There is general agreement with the definitions (adopted from the National

Domestic Violence Hotline). Talk turns to recent incidents in the news and cases handled by a local advocate. The talk is followed by a presentation on barriers to services victims need. You hear voices acknowledge how hard it is to break the cycle, the risk of death when leaving, how children are affected, and about resources that are too scarce.

The statistics are frightening. One in three women are domestic violence victims. Twelve women are in the room with you. You start to realize what no one dares to say out loud: **1 in 3** means four women in the room with you are victims of domestic violence.

This is unacceptable.

Message from the National Domestic Violence Hotline:

***Break the Silence
Make the Call***

LOCAL RESOURCES: If you or someone you know is being abused there are several resources in the Louisville Metro area.

The Center For Women and Families offers shelter, counseling and advocates: **502.581.7222**



If you are not sure but you *believe* someone is being abused, **make the call.**

Adult/Child Abuse Hotline: 1.800.752.6200

Domestic Violence Intake Center (to obtain an emergency protective order) **502.595.0853**

Crisis and Information Center:
589.4313 or 1-800-221.0446

**Break the Silence - It won't stop until we all say:
This Is Unacceptable!**

Upcoming Mayor's Community Conversations



Monday, October 20
Waggener High School
330 Hubbards Lane

Monday, November 17
Pleasure Ridge Park HS
5901 Greenwood Rd.

December: No MCC

All Community
Conversations begin at
6:30pm

Be sure to look for OFW at
Community Conversations.



Looking Forward With OFW:

January 2009:
Conversation Café #3 in the Women Owned Businesses and Entrepreneurship Series.

February 2009:
Citizens' Police Academy for Women

March 2009:
International Women's Day

WHERE YOU WILL FIND THE OFFICE FOR WOMEN



October is a busy month at the Office For Women. We were proud that Louisville hosted the North American Victim Assistance Conference. OFW was able to provide volunteer hours with other Human Services Employees at this worthy event.

Later in the month Toyota's annual conference for women, "In the interest of Women", will be in Louisville. Once again the OFW will be there doing community outreach. Last year was a big success and we expect this year to be even better.

OFW was present at the grand opening of the Louisville Scholar House hosted by Family Scholar House (formerly Project Women) and we look forward to October 21st when Project Women holds its 11th Annual Luncheon. http://www.projectwomen.org/upcoming_events.htm The guest speaker is Faith Aidele, an inspiring world traveler and authoress who often writes for O magazine.

At Homeless Connect on October 22nd, OFW will be available to speak with women seeking services. Our objective is to gather information about this growing homeless population, what the women see as the causes of their homelessness, and the barriers they experience in trying to leave the homeless community.

October 27th: OFW will hold Conversation Café #2 in our Women and Entrepreneurship Series entitled, *The Power of The Plan*. An overview and registration information is provided on our website. More information is available upon registration.

A Conversation Café: DV as a Health Issue

On September 24th the Office For Women hosted the 2nd Conversation Café in our Women and Health Series in The Forum at the Department of Health and Wellness.

The agenda included **Tina Lentz, Office for Women** who welcomed attendees and presented an overview of prevalence data on women, domestic violence, and health effects. **Gabriela Alcalde, Community Activist** discussed domestic violence as a public health and health care issue. **Denise Vazquez Troutman, Center for Women and Families** provided a day-to-day perspective as a service provider of effects of domestic violence and how the Center serves those needs. **Sandy Hamilton, ElderServe** discussed the long-term effects on women who remain in an abusive relationship as well as those who leave.

The presentations were followed by preview of the DV Simulation "In Her Shoes: Living with Domestic Violence" obtained by OFW from the Washington

State Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Attendees volunteered to participate as various "characters" and a group discussion followed. OFW plans to use the simulation in partnership with other organizations as a tool in the battle against domestic/ intimate partner violence in 2009.

To wrap up, **Lisa Tobe, Center for Health Equity**, presented *How DV Fits into the Health Equity Model and How Social Policy Can Change It*, followed by a question and answer session.

We wish to thank our presenters who made this a powerful experience for everyone in attendance. We especially want to thank Sandy Hamilton for providing refreshments for this brown bag event. The program, presenter biographies and more information is online at:

<http://www.louisvilleky.gov/OFW/DV-HealthIssue.htm>

Take A Stand Today!

Here are some things you can do:

- Support organizations that provide programs and services to domestic violence victims and their families;
- Volunteer your time;
- Make a donation;
- Advocate for the need for these services to be provided in our community;
- Donate your old cell phone and charger so that those at-risk can have access to 911;
- Ask your healthcare provider if they routinely assess for domestic violence—if the answer is no, ask them why not;
- Attend local events to show your support and learn as much as you can about the issue.

Help change the culture – engage with others around this discussion. When we begin to talk about it openly, we can influence change.



About OFW

The Office for Women (OFW) vision is to create an interconnected community of champions working to improve the status of all women by bringing individual community members and organizations together to enhance collaboration, communication and coordination. Our focus is advocacy and public policy in the areas of Women's Health and Safety; Economic Well-being and Empowerment; and Investing in Girls and Young Women.

We Want You To Know: There Is A Link Between Animal Abuse & Domestic Violence

How is animal abuse linked to domestic violence?

Women seeking shelter due to domestic violence (also called *intimate partner violence* or IPV) are 11 times more likely to report their partner hurt or killed their household pets as women who are not victims of domestic violence.

http://www.hsus.org/acf/cruelty/publiced/domestic_violence_cruelty.html

According to The Humane Society of the United States, animal abuse is related to domestic violence in several ways including exposing battering as a deliberate act. Battering is not about “a bad temper.”

Abuse of animals is a tool used by some batterers to control and coerce victims. Threats and abuse aimed at pets can result in victims of domestic violence delaying plans to leave if they do not have a safe place to take pets.

Research indicates this may be the case for as many as 1 in 4 domestic violence victims.

http://cfhs.ca/athome/human_animal_violence_connection

The Center For Women and Families has a Safe Haven program in partnership with the Kentucky Humane Society. This program helps domestic violence victims ensure the safety of their family pet by caring for the animals at safe, undisclosed locations while they are receiving the Center's shelter services. To reach the Center For Women and Families call:

502.581.7222.



"One of the most dangerous things that can happen to a child is to kill or torture an animal and get away with it."- Anthropologist Margaret Mead

PROGRAMS & SUPPORT SERVICES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS

Adult Protective Services
Phone: (502) 595-4803 (24-hour hotline); or 1-800-752-6200

Center for Women and Families
Phone: (502)581-7222 or (877) 803-7577 (toll free)
<http://www.thecenteronline.org/>

Commonwealth Attorney's Office
Domestic Violence Division
Phone: (502) 595-2340

County Attorney
Phone: (502)574-6336
<http://www.louisvilleky.gov/CountyAttorney>

Crisis and Information Center
Phone: (502) 589-4313
800-221-0446
TDD (502) 589-4259

Domestic Violence Intake Center
Phone: (502)595-0853
<http://www.louisvilleky.gov/CountyAttorney/dvintakecenter>

ElderServe
Phone: (502)583-8012
<http://www.elderserveinc.org/>

Jefferson County Family Court
Clerk's Office:
Phone: (502) 595-3025
<http://www.louisvilleky.gov/CountyAttorney/familycourt>

Jefferson County Sheriff
Phone: (502) 574-5400
Legal Aid Society

Phone (502) 584-1254
Or (800) 292-1862 (toll free)
<http://www.laslou.org/>

Louisville Metro Police
Emergency Phone: 911
Domestic Violence Unit:
Phone (502)574-7672
<http://www.louisvilleky.gov/MetroPolice/contactus.htm>

Mary Byron Foundation
Phone: (866) 264-6684 (toll free)
<http://www.marybyronfoundation.org/contact.html>

MensWork
Phone: (502) 494-9044|
<http://mensworkinc.com/>

Victim Information & Notification
Everyday (VINE)
Phone: (800) 511-1670 (toll free)
Protective Order phone service:
(866)-803-5858
<http://www.vinelink.com/vinelink/initMap.do>